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SALUTING RURAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Special recognition for Health Department staff

Contact:

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Martin County, FL – Dental Hygienist, Milly Ruiz and Nurse Program Specialist, Marybeth Peña were named *Rural Health Champions* by the Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network (LORHN) and the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF).

The Rural Health Champion award provides recognition for individuals who go above and beyond in their work to support programs and initiatives that reduce health disparities and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Ruiz provides oral health education and dental sealants to Martin County children through the school based dental sealant program and coordinates a dental health coalition to address the children's unmet dental needs. More than three thousand children have been served since the program began in late 2014. The program is funded, in part, by the Children's Services Council of Martin County.

Peña is known for her interactive workshops with children and adults that promote healthy eating and lifestyles. The programs have touched the lives of thousands of residents through partnerships and collaborations with Martin County community agencies.



Photo:

From left: Marybeth Peña, Milly Ruiz, Public Information Officer, Renay Rouse and Health Officer, Karlette Peck

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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